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BOOK REVIEWS

THE AMOEBAE LIVING IN MAN. A Zoological Monograph. By Clifford Dobell, M.A., F.R.S. New York, William Wood & Company, 1919.

The scientific world is deeply indebted to Doctor Dobell for his recent monograph on the human amoebae. His work, which is truly monographic in character, covers a field that is in a state of serious confusion. To one not intimately familiar with the organisms and unable for any reason whatever to devote much time to the study of previous publications, it is impossible to reach clear conclusions regarding the many questions in dispute. Doctor Dobell has that thorough knowledge which lays the sure foundation for such a study. His long series of valuable studies represented by shorter publications of recent years, the responsibility of training the English workers who devoted themselves to the subject of amoebic dysentery during the war, and membership on the War Office Dysentery Committee made him thoroly familiar with the work done under English auspices. A tireless laboratory worker as well as a keen and impartial critic of the literature, no one else could be named who is anything like as well fitted to give an impartial view of these controversial questions.

Those in any field who are interested in the amoebic parasites of man will find in the volume a work of great interest and helpfulness. After a brief introduction and a useful section on materials and methods, Doctor Dobell reviews concisely the present state of knowledge concerning human amoebae, and then discusses the genera, closing with the following synopsis to indicate the acceptable names and the synonyms:

SYNOPSIS OF GENERA AND SPECIES OF AMOEBAE LIVING IN MAN

Genus I.—*Entamoeba* Casagrandi and Barbagallo, 1895 (nec *Endamoeba* Leidy, 1879).

Synonyms:

Poneramoeba Lühe, 1908.

Löschia

Viereckia

Proctamoeba

Alexeieff, 1912.

[*Amoeba* (pro parte), *Endamoeba*, *Entamoeba*, *Endameba*, *Entamöba*, Auctt.]

Type: *E. coli* (Grassi) Casagrandi and Barbagallo.

Species in Man: *E. coli* (Grassi) Casagrandi and Barbagallo.

E. histolytica Schaudinn (emend, Walker).

E. gingivalis (Gros) Brumpt.

Genus II.—*Endolimax* Kuenen and Swellengrebel, 1917.

Only species, hence type: *E. nana* (Wenyon and O'Connor) Brug.

Genus III.—*Iodamoeba* nov. gen.

Only species, hence type: *I. bütschlii* (Prowazek) Dobell.

Genus IV.—*Dientamoeba* Jepps and Dobell, 1918.

Only species, hence type: *D. fragilis* Jepps and Dobell.

In subsequent chapters each of these genera and species is studied in detail and a complete analysis given of the structure, life history, clinical relations and nomenclature. It would be impossible to review here the immense amount of detailed information compressed into the closely printed pages of the monograph. This section may be commended to the careful study of parasitologists and of clinicians who desire to know the correct form of the names for the various species and the basis on which these conclusions are reached.

Dobell protests rightly against the suppression of the diphthong in the name *Amoeba*, which has to some extent crept into our literature, probably through the adoption of a quasi-common name *ameba*. There is certainly no justification for attempting to depart from the Latin language and to modify the original spelling. Dobell also makes it very clear that the genus designation of the human parasite is properly *Entamoeba* and that the genus *Endamoeba*, originally

described by Leidy in 1879 for a species of amoebae found in the cockroach, must be preserved for that type.

Some American workers may not look kindly upon the use of the form *Entamoeba histolytica* of Schaudinn in preference to *E. dysenteriae* of Councilman and Lafleur, which has come into use in some circles, but Dobell's argument is unanswerable, and as shown by Stiles some years ago, the name *E. dysenteriae* cannot be justified.

The monograph contains also sections on the amoebae in human urine, in dogs, and in monkeys, as well as on certain other amoeboid organisms described from man which are not true parasitic amoebae of man, but are to be explained in one way or another. They are but a small section of the long list of pseudo-amoebae that could be compiled from the literature of parasitology and medicine.

The work closes with a good bibliography, following which are five plates illustrating the forms under discussion. The colored plates are especially worthy of mention, since they represent in a particularly faithful manner the appearances that present themselves under the microscope to those working with stained and mounted preparations.

The Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Director of Veterinary Research in the Union of South Africa make a splendid volume of scientific contributions in which are some papers of marked interest to parasitologists. Special mention might be made of the work on intoxication by *Gastrophilus* larvae. It is due to a toxin, but in the view of the authors the symptoms do not accord with anaphylaxis. The life history of a new nematode from fowls (*Filaria gallinarum*) shows developmental stages in termites on which the fowls feed habitually.